

APR 30 2008

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/521,439  
SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Action of November 1, 2007, claims 1-2 and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobsen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,141,493 ("Jacobsen") and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over Noack (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107474). The Action indicates that the application can be placed in condition for allowance, i.e., that these rejections can be overcome, by adding specific limitations to the claims relating to the dehydration mechanism or the methodology of the dehydration system "that differentiates from a conventional osmotic pressure differential system that removes water as a by-product of the process." (Action, page 5, lines 6-8).

In order to expedite an allowance of claims in this application and without admitting the propriety of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite specific dehydration mechanisms and have amended claim 7 to recite a specific methodology of the dehydration mechanism. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 7 is found in the specification in the description of examples of the dehydration mechanism 6 on pages 13 to 15.

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Amendments have also been made to the claims to ensure consistency with the amendments to claims 1 and 7 and to avoid the objections to claim 1 made in the Action.

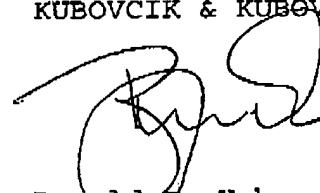
The claims remaining in the application are now believed to be in a condition for allowance and a formal Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2007, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension and any additional required fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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